



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.9
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR
THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 29 (Crime prevention and criminal justice) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 29)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the revisions reflected the priorities and programmes recommended by the General Assembly. A number of delegations disagreed.

3. One delegation questioned the need for the creation of a new subprogramme on operational activities, planning and coordination. Other delegations supported the creation of the new subprogramme.

4. A number of delegations recommended the following changes:

(a) In paragraph 29.5, eleventh line, the words "and promoting the fundamental principles of good government" should be deleted;

(b) In paragraph 29.14, the reference to Eighth United Nations Congress resolutions 4 and 5 should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 29.16 (e), third line, the words "relevant to the programme" should be replaced by the words "when mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice";

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (b), the words "sound public administration and good governance" should be deleted;

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (c), the words "crimes against the cultural patrimony" should be deleted;

(f) In paragraph 29.23, last sentence, the words "Promotion and implementation" should be replaced by the words "Evaluation by the Commission".

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 29 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 29.4, eleventh line, the words "in close cooperation with other relevant entities, including regional institutes" should be added after the words "at Vienna";

(b) In paragraph 29.5, the following text should be inserted at the end of the paragraph: "In dealing with the transnational criminality issue, it is noted that the lowering of the world crime rate is related to, among other factors, the improvement of the social conditions of the population. The developed countries and the developing countries are experiencing difficult situations in this respect. Nevertheless, the specific problems encountered by the developing countries justify priority being given to dealing with the situation confronting those countries";

(c) In paragraph 29.12, penultimate line, the words "and as determined by" should be inserted after the words "under the guidance of"; and the words "as appropriate" should be added at the end of the paragraph;

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (c), second line, the word "national" should be inserted before the word "services";

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (d), first line, the words "Member States" should be inserted after the words "To help";

(f) In paragraph 29.32, fourth line, the words "by the Commission" should be inserted after the word "identified";

(g) In paragraph 29.38, fifth line, the word "The" should be replaced by the word "Some", and the words "requiring standard-setting" should be deleted; at the end of the paragraph the following sentence should be added: "The Commission shall identify those new areas requiring standard-setting".



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.10
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE
PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 18 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30 and Corr.1)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed the view that the consideration of the proposed revisions to this programme suffered from the absence of an overall introduction providing an analysis of prevailing and emerging trends guiding the proposed revisions to the plan.

3. A number of delegations expressed the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to the programme was too limited and did not sufficiently reflect the mandates adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and

the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its last session.

4. Several delegations were of the view that substantive reference to Agenda 21 to be considered at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should have been reflected in the revisions to this programme. Other delegations felt that the drought issue should also have been addressed, in particular under subprogramme 3.

5. A number of delegations considered that the subprogramme structure should have been streamlined and that there were too many subprogrammes designated high priority. A number of delegations expressed concern that the social programmes under ECA were not receiving the requisite priority attention.

6. Some delegations considered that the revision should have highlighted the impact on the programmes of heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources by the Commission.

7. While a number of delegations suggested that the process of regional economic integration covered in subprogramme 2 should be approached with caution, bearing in mind the benefits to be derived from a liberalization of trade, other delegations expressed the view that there was no contradiction between economic integration and free trade.

8. Some delegations remained to be convinced that the resources devoted to MULPOCs were productively applied. Other delegations did not share that view.

9. The view was expressed that in a number of instances the proposed revisions should be reformulated and corrected to avoid duplication in the text.

Conclusions and recommendations

[10. The Committee noted that the social programmes in ECA were not receiving sufficient attention and stressed the need for these programmes to be strengthened.]

11. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications and subject to the provisions of paragraph 12 below:

(a) In new paragraph 30.45, at the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added: "The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries will be given special attention in intercountry technical cooperation projects";

(b) In old paragraph 30.46, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 46/156 and 46/212 should be added;

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(c) In new paragraph 30.58, in the French version, the word "inefficacité" should be replaced by the word "inadéquation";

(d) Old paragraph 30.60 should be retained;

(e) In new paragraph 30.70, at the beginning of the second sentence, the words "Such strategies will be aimed at examining" should be replaced by the words "Such strategies will be established based upon examination of";

(f) In new paragraph 30.103 (a), the word "multi-country" should be replaced by the word "subregional";

(g) In new paragraph 30.105, the words "and financial" should be added after the word "technical".

12. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to programme 30 in the light of the discussion in the Committee and taking into account the outcome of the Conference of Ministers of ECA and relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, and submit those revisions to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.11
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM
PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development
in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations commended the efforts to streamline the structure of programme 31 and expressed appreciation for the thematic approach and the clustering of activities under fewer subprogrammes.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 31 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Wherever the terms "countries in transition" or "transitional economies" are used, they should be replaced by the words "countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy".

(b) In paragraph 31.5, next to the last line, the words "the urgent need to address environmental issues and to achieve sustainable resource use patterns;" should be inserted after the word "investment;".

(c) In paragraph 31.6, next to the last line, the word "further" should be replaced by the word "additional".

(d) In paragraph 31.10, first and second lines, the words "particularly the central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, should be deleted.

(e) In paragraph 31.14, twelfth line, the passage beginning with "Increasing" to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "Increasing regional interdependence has, in fact created both opportunities and structural problems that need to be addressed in a concerted manner. Reduction of imbalances in trade, adjustments to more open and competitive markets, and efforts to stimulate new patterns of growth are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Moreover several centrally planned economies in the region are making a transition to a market economy; regional cooperation can assist those countries to make the changes in a positive direction."

(f) In paragraph 31.15, the first sentence should be replaced by "At the global level, a certain trend towards protectionism, proliferation of trade, alliances and raising of barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment." The sentence beginning "The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade ..." should be replaced by "The outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by providing both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade. Uncertainty about the outcome, however, has led many countries to explore alternative arrangements for promoting their trade interests."

(g) In paragraph 31.17 the subparagraph (a) should be replaced by "To sustain the momentum of growth and development in the region while contributing to the alleviation of income disparities within the region;" the subparagraph (b) should be replaced by "To minimize problems and to take advantage of opportunities that growing economic interdependence might provide;" the subparagraph (c) should be replaced by "To manage the smooth transition of the countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy in the region and facilitate their eventual integration in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;" the subparagraph (j) should be replaced by "Overcome difficulties arising out of growing protectionism and other barriers against competitive exports;".

(h) In paragraph 31.25, sixth line, the words "Economic growth" should be deleted and the sentence begun with the word "Rising ..."

(i) In paragraph 31.28, the second from the last sentence, beginning with the words "The plight of ...", should be replaced by "At the same time, the plight of the rural and urban poor, as well as the lack of access of the general population and the local industry to affordable clean energy accentuates some of the supply-side management problems in the energy sector which remain unresolved."

(j) In paragraph 31.28, last sentence, the words "as well as those relating to transfer of technology and resources" should be inserted after the words "specific problems".

(k) In paragraph 31.29, fifth line, the word "mainly" should be deleted.

(l) In paragraph 31.31, after second sentence, a new sentence should be inserted: "The activities will also include any follow-up action on decisions and measures adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

(m) In paragraph 31.37, third line from the bottom, the words "living and non-living" should be deleted.

(n) In paragraph 31.46, seventh line, the words "the vulnerable sections of society and" should be inserted after the words "reforms on".

(o) In paragraph 31.48, after second sentence a new sentence should be inserted: "In this regard services and support will be rendered to activities related to the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 in accordance with resolution 48/3 of the Commission." In the eighth line, the words "In that connection" should be deleted, and after the words "Special attention will", the word "also" should be inserted.

(p) In paragraph 31.74, at the end of first sentence, the words "compounded by the limited capacity of some transit countries" should be inserted after the words "transport problems".

(q) In paragraph 31.75, fourth line, the word "they" should be replaced by "most of these countries".



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.12
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART
OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE
PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. At its 15th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 32 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions did not reflect the extent of the changes in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

3. A number of delegations considered that the social implications of the transition to market economies of some countries should have been emphasized in the revisions.

4. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions should have highlighted the need to improve cooperation and coordination between ECE and other regional and international organizations.

5. Different views were expressed regarding the proposals on priorities within the programme. While a number of delegations supported those proposals, other delegations were of the view that subprogrammes 5 and 6, as a whole, should also be designated high priority.

6. A number of delegations considered that the designation of specific elements within subprogrammes 4 and 5 as priority areas was not in accordance with the provisions of programme planning regulations and rules.

7. A number of delegations expressed the view that the issue of international migration should be treated on a priority basis. Other delegations questioned whether this was indeed a valid objective to be pursued by the ECE.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In the new paragraph 32.13 the words "including a study of the potential hazard of atomic radiation on the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in close cooperation with IAEA and other relevant agencies" should be inserted after the words "possible areas of work".

(b) In the new paragraph 32.14, a reference to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, should be added at the end of the paragraph.

(c) In the new paragraph 32.15, the titles of subprogrammes 4, 5, 7 and 8 should be changed to the following:

Subprogramme 4: Trade facilitation

Subprogramme 5: Economic analysis

Subprogramme 7: Development of international trade

Subprogramme 8: Industry and technology

The Committee noted that the changes recommended in paragraph 32.15 may require the Secretariat to make adjustments to the relevant programme narratives and report thereon to the second part of its thirty-second session.

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(d) In the new paragraph 32.16, the first sentence should be replaced by "Subprogrammes 1 to 5 are designated as priority areas of work".

(e) In the new paragraph 32.21, at the end of the paragraph a new sentence should be added: "The need to develop effective ways of conserving flora, fauna and their habitats transcends the limits of individual countries and will require further cooperation for the maintenance of an acceptable regional environment".

(f) In the new paragraph 32.24, at the beginning of the paragraph, the words "Bearing in mind the decisions which may be taken at UNCED", should be inserted.

(g) In the new paragraph 32.28, at the end of the paragraph the words "within the context of the further liberalization of trade" should be replaced by the words "within the framework of the mandated activities of ECE".

(h) In the new paragraph 32.65, second sentence, before the words "oil substitution" the words "coal and" should be added.

(i) In the new paragraph 32.92, third sentence, the words "including UNEP and HABITAT" should be inserted after the words "international organizations".

9. The Committee recommended that existing legislative mandates for the involvement of the Commission in international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl accident should be reflected in the narratives of subprogrammes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

10. In view of the developments in the region, the Committee invited the Commission to keep the programme under review and to report, as appropriate, to the Committee.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.13
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM
PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development
in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 33 (Regional cooperation for development in Latin American and the Caribbean) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 33)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations considered that, in the light of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/145, a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration should have been proposed. One delegation expressed the view that the resources required for the implementation of such a subprogramme should be obtained through redeployment.

3. A number of delegations were of the view that, while regional commissions could undertake activities in the area of international drug control, as

referred to in the new paragraph 33.69 in the revisions, the leading role of the United Nations Drug Control Programme in this area should be reinforced.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) New paragraph 33.69: The text of the new paragraph should be replaced by the following: "In the context of the drug trafficking situation in the countries of the region, there is an urgent need to study and elaborate the economic impact caused by the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;"

(b) New paragraph 33.70: To fulfil that need ECLAC shall undertake any appropriate follow-up and complementary work to the recent UNDCP studies and research and analysis of the economic and social impact of drug production, trafficking and consumption and formulations of alternative development programmes to remedy this impact; provision of technical assistance in the formulation of national policies to prevent and reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

5. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean as called for in General Assembly resolution 46/145 and submit it to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session. The objectives of the subprogramme would be to promote full utilization of multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms provided for in the regional and subregional integration and cooperation plans with a view to developing trade and economic development in the region.

6. The Committee invited ECLAC, in line with General Assembly resolution 46/166, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities related to the promotion of entrepreneurship, in particular through private sector development in interested countries, through small and medium-sized enterprises.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.14
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR
THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 34. Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia

1. At its 16th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 34 (Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 34)).

Discussion

2. One delegation expressed its concern about the ability of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to implement the wide range of activities described in the programme, in view of the prevailing situation in the region. Another delegation was of the view that ESCWA should strengthen the coordination of its activities with those of the other regional organizations in the area so as to avoid duplication and ensure rational use of resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 34 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.15
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Miss Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 19 and 20 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog.35)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed support for the work of the Centre for Human Rights.

3. A number of delegations suggested the deletion from paragraph 35.19 of the reference to the bodies listed therein. Other delegations objected to that proposal.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee reaffirmed its previous recommendations on the strengthening of the programmes and activities of the Centre.

5. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 35.15, at the end of new subparagraph (vi), the words "after its entry into force" should be inserted;

(b) In paragraph 35.16, second line of the revision, the word "future" should be added before the word "Committee";

(c) [Paragraph 35.19: For further negotiation.]

(d) In paragraph 35.25, the word "after" should be replaced by the words "with the";

(e) In new paragraph 35.23, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be deleted and the words "persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and" should be inserted after the words "regarding the rights of";

(f) In new paragraph 35.31, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/51 should be added;

(g) In new paragraph 35.32:

(i) In the fifth line, the words "which ensure the rule of law" should be inserted after the word "infrastructures";

(ii) In the third sentence, the words "The development of appropriate arrangements" should be replaced by the words "Assistance will be given to Member States to develop appropriate arrangements";

(iii) The fourth sentence should be replaced by the following "Governments should make all efforts to ensure that all provisions contained in human rights instruments are known by those responsible for their implementation as well as by those whose rights these instruments are intended to protect. Assistance will be provided to Governments upon request in that connection";

(h) In new paragraph 35.33, first line, the words "of the rule of law and in particular" should be inserted after the word "strengthening";

(i) In new paragraph 35.35, subparagraph (a), the words "international conventions and other" should be deleted and the following words should be added at the end of the sentence: "and to make additional efforts to promote ratification of international instruments on human rights";

(j) In new paragraph 35.36, the last two sentences of old paragraph 35.35 should be retained;

(k) In new paragraph 35.37, first sentence, the word "conventions" should be replaced by the word "instruments"; [Last sentence to be further negotiated];

(l) In new paragraph 35.42, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 should be added;

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(m) In new paragraph 35.45, the words "genuine elections" should be replaced by the words "participation and democratization, including periodic and genuine elections" and the words "and the international humanitarian order" should be deleted;

(n) In new paragraph 35.46, in the new sentence, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be replaced by the words "the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities", and at the end of the third sentence, the words "as well as from the standard-setting projects regarding the rights of indigenous people and from the draft protocol to the Convention against Torture regarding visits to centres of detention" should be added;

(o) In the global strategy of programme 35, appropriate references to the follow-up measures to be taken as a result of the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, should be included.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1992/L.3/Add.16
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
11-22 May 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

Review of the programme of work of the Committee and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions

1. At its 17th, 18th and 19th meetings, on 20 and 21 May, the Committee considered the review of the programme of work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

Discussion

2. The Chairman of the Committee introduced the item. He referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/67, in which the Committee was requested to review its programme of work, taking into account the review of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields; to the increased workload of the Committee resulting from the new budgetary process introduced by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213; to General Assembly resolution 46/189 on programme planning, which also requested the Committee to review its programme of work; to resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and particularly to the "coordination segment" of the

annual session of the Economic and Social Council; and to the report of the Committee at its thirty-first session on the question of documentation, which the Committee had noted remained a cause for concern. The Chairman also indicated that two themes - eradication of poverty in developing countries and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic - had been selected for the 1992 coordination segment of the Council. As had been pointed out by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Development, the CPC was not in a position in the current year to make an input into the coordination segment of the Council.

3. The Chairman of the Committee further stated that the request of the Council was clearly focused on the question of the timing and duration of the sessions of the Committee. A debate on the mandate or composition of the Committee was not requested. It should also be borne in mind that the General Assembly was to review at its forty-eighth session the results of the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council.

4. In order to assist the Committee in its consideration of the item, the Chairman listed a number of concrete issues that he requested the Committee to address. These issues were the following:

- (a) Duration of the sessions of the Committee;
- (b) Timing of the meetings of the Committee and of the Joint CPC/ACC meetings;
- (c) Question of the timeliness and availability of documentation, which should be seen as a key to the efficient functioning of the Committee;
- (d) Support provided by the Secretariat to the Committee, for instance in terms of the planning of documentation;
- (e) Timing of the organizational session of the Committee;
- (f) Current format of the report of the Committee;
- (g) Inter-sessional contacts between the Secretariat and the Committee;
- (h) Relationship of the CPC with other committees or units, such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU);
- (i) Questions regarding the Committee's report to the Council, its format and substance.

5. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the inter-sessional contacts he had suggested were related purely to the question of the timeliness of the documentation. Such contacts would provide an incentive to the Secretariat for submitting documents on time. It was suggested that the bureau of the Committee, and/or representatives of regional groups might represent the Committee in its contacts with the Secretariat between sessions.

6. The relationship between the agenda and the duration of the session was emphasized. It was pointed out that some items, for instance, those on evaluation and/or coordination, or the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, could be considered every other year. That proposal was supported by a number of delegations. A number of delegations questioned the approach.

7. A number of delegations expressed the view that the length of the Committee's session could be reduced through efficient management of its work programme. Other delegations noted that in fact two or three more days would be useful. The search for consensus required lengthy negotiations. It was also pointed out that the current system of sitting for six-weeks in off-budget years and four weeks in budget years was not sacrosanct. A pragmatic approach would be desirable for a variable duration in budget years, medium-term plan adoption years, and medium-term plan revision years.

8. A number of delegations stressed that the timing of the joint CPC/ACC meetings was inconvenient in many respects. It was noted that in the past such meetings occurred in July, prior to the summer session of the Economic and Social Council. It was also noted that a joint meeting immediately before or after the CPC session would have a number of advantages. It was further noted that a joint meeting at the beginning of the calendar year would facilitate timely reporting to the Council. A number of delegations held that the joint meetings should be discontinued. Their usefulness was questionable, and they were in any case de facto replaced by the "coordination segment" of the Council.

9. With regard to the timing of the CPC meeting, a number of delegations noted that delaying the thirty-second session to the second week of May had facilitated the provision of most documents at least one or two weeks before the beginning of the session, which is still too late. It was emphasized that the reporting of CPC to the Economic and Social Council was the key for determining the best scheduling of the CPC session. Should the CPC report only to the General Assembly, it was clear that the end of August/beginning of September would be the most appropriate time for the Committee's meeting. A number of delegations stated that the Committee could not in any case meet in April because of the problem of availability of documentation. Other delegations pointed out that the availability of conference-servicing facilities was also an important factor in determining the scheduling of the Committee's meetings.

10. Questions were raised as to the rationale for the current timing of the organizational session of the Committee. One delegation noted that representatives coming from capitals were not in a position to attend such a session when it was organized as long as a month before the substantive session itself. A number of delegations noted that an organizational session taking place a few weeks ahead would be valuable in determining the starting date of the substantive session in relation to the status of documentation and that it was not necessary to have the participation of experts from capitals at that meeting.

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11. The Committee remained seriously concerned about the late issuance of documentation which continues to have a negative effect on the work of the Committee.

12. The Secretariat stated that the difficulties in producing documentation six weeks before an intergovernmental meeting were due to several factors, including the necessity of holding consultations between several units; the trade-off, sometimes unavoidable, between timeliness and quality, and the availability of timely information. A document completed by a substantive unit eight or nine weeks before a meeting would sometimes be based on obsolete information. The Secretariat also stated that it was possible, in a number of cases, to produce short documents focused on main aspects of the analysis of a given issue and on conclusions and recommendations, while making available to the Committee supporting information through conference room papers. Further, the Secretariat noted that efforts should continue to be made for the timely production of documents in all official languages.

13. The question of secretariat support to the Committee was mentioned by a number of delegations. A number were of the view that a permanent secretariat, similar to the secretariat servicing the ACABQ, would greatly enhance the quality and timeliness of the services provided to the Committee. Others were not convinced of the usefulness of such a permanent support. The Secretariat recalled the distinction between the technical servicing and the substantive servicing of the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee, while ensuring the technical servicing, was also responsible for the servicing of other intergovernmental committees. Apart from documents on coordination, now produced by the Department for Economic and Social Development, all other documents were produced by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance.

14. Concerning the relationships between the Committee and the ACABQ, it was noted that a comparison between the working methods of the two Committees was not very meaningful. The latter had an open-ended agenda, an open calendar of meetings and a full time secretariat. Each Committee had its own terms of reference. It was also noted that cooperation of the two Committees, within their own sphere of competence, was highly desirable.

15. Apart from the question of the link between reporting to the Council and the timing of the CPC session, the issue of the relevance of the role of CPC vis-à-vis the Council was addressed by a number of delegations. It was noted that the consideration by the Council of the CPC report was largely perfunctory. Even the parts of the proposed programme budget and of the medium-term plan, which were within the purview of the Council, were not the subject of a meaningful consideration. It was also noted that the recent changes in the functioning of the Council could improve this situation. Resolution 45/264 had not yet been fully implemented.

16. A number of delegations pointed out that 1992 was an exceptional year in the sense that a number of events were contributing to an increase in the work of CPC and were determining the timing of submission of documents. Such

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events were notably the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the restructuring of the Secretariat. It was also noted that this was a period of transition for the United Nations as a whole and that the Committee would have to respond flexibly, and in keeping with its mandate, to these developments.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee recognized that the actual length of its session was directly related to its increased workload as well as to the quality and timeliness of the documentation. With regard to the duration of the sessions, the Committee expressed the view that it should continue to work within the current range of time allotted to its session.

18. The Committee concluded that the timing of its sessions should continue to be determined by its dual reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In principle, the Committee would meet between April and June with a resumed session in an off-budget year. The Committee recommended that in budget years the possibility of holding its session in August/September be explored.

19. The Committee recommended that a review of its role with regard to the preparation and follow-up of the coordination segment be undertaken by the Council; the Council might also wish to assess the role of the Joint CPC/ACC meetings in the same process. The Committee recalled paragraphs 458 and 459 of the report of its thirty-first session (A/46/16) and recommended that measures to improve the usefulness of the Joint Meetings of CPC/ACC should be assessed in relation to the effectiveness of the coordination segment of the Council. The desirability of holding the Joint Meetings in the spring should be considered. Any such meetings should be held as closely as possible to CPC sessions.

20. With regard to the organizational session, the Committee concluded that it should take place approximately four to five weeks before the opening of the annual session. This would allow the Committee to assess the status of documentation for the session and take remedial measures as required.

21. The Committee stressed that the timely submission of documents of good quality was the key to the proper fulfilment of its mandate. The Committee also stressed that most documents should be more concise and more directly conducive to the adoption of conclusions and recommendations by the Committee. The Committee further stressed that documents should be available in all official languages sufficiently in advance to be considered by all national authorities concerned in a useful manner. The Committee was of the view that a time schedule for the issuance of documents should be attached as part of the report to the provisional agenda for the following annual session. The usefulness of inter-sessional contacts between the Bureau and the Secretariat with regard to the production and availability of documents was recognized.

22. The Committee concluded that the current format of its report, which comprised a concise account of the discussion on each item and of conclusions and recommendations, should be maintained.
